Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06 OES-06 /036 R

DRAFTED BY EB/TCA/MA:JAPURNELL:EW APPROVED BY EB/TCA/MA:RKBANK ARA/ECP:DTAHER (SUBS) ARA/ECA:PVANTREECK(INFO) FMC:TCHRISTENSEN (INFO) MARAD:RBOURDON

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P 081647Z FEB 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EWWT, AR

SUBJECT: SHIPPING: ARGENTINE CARGO RESERVATION MEASURE

1. MOORE MCCORMACK LINES REPORTS THAT IT IS LOSING BUSINESS BECAUSE OF A RECENTLY SIGNED CARGO RESERVATION MEASURE-RESOLUTION 507. A SUMMARY OF THE RESOLUTION TELEXED BY MOOREMACK'S BUENOS AIRES OFFICE APPEARS TO INDICATE THAT THE RESOLUTION - AS PROMULGATED - IS WORDED SOMEWHAT DIFFERENTLY FROM THE DRAFT VERSION WHICH THE EMBASSY FORWARDED TO EB/TCA/MA A FEW MONTHS AGO. THE DRAFT VERSION SEEMED TO INDICATE THAT FOREIGN-FLAG LINES PARTY TO A POOLING AGREEMENT WITH ELMA WOULD BE ISSUED WAIVERS OR "SHIPPING PRE-CERTIFICATES" BY ELMA OFFICES LOCATED ABROAD. MOOREMACK RECENTLY APPLIED FOR SUCH WAIVERS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEW YORK AND WAS TURNED DOWN. THE LINE STATES IT THEREBY LOST 1500 TONS OF CARGO THAT SHIPPERS HAD WISHED TO PLACE ON ITS VESSELS.

2. TWO MOOREMACK VESSELS ARE ALREADY IN ROUTE TO BUENOS AIRES, AND DEPARTED THE U.S. TOO LATE FOR THE LINE TO REQUEST WAIVERS FOR THE ARGENTINE-BOUND CARGO THEY ARE

CARRYING. THE MOOREMACK DRACO AND THE MOOREMACK WAVE ARE DUE IN BUENOS AIRES FEBRUARY 21 AND FEBRUARY 27, RESPECTIVELY.

- 3. MOOREMACK EXECUTIVES WILL BE MEETING IN NEW YORK WITH ELMA OFFICIALS FEBRUARY 9, IN AN ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY SITUATION. DEPARTMENT WILL INFORM EMBASSY OF OUTCOME OF THESE DISCUSSIONS.
- 4. DELTA STEAMSHIP LINES EXECUTIVES REPORT THAT SHIP-PERS ARE BEGINNING TO CANCEL BOOKINGS ON DELTA VESSELS FOR FEAR THEIR SHIPMENTS CANNOT BE OFFLOADED IN BUENOS AIRES. CAPT. CLARK OF DELTA HAS HEARD THAT THE GOA PLANS TO IMPLEMENT THE DECREE STRICTLY - WITH NO EXCEPTIONS FOR POOL PARTNERS - AND IS CONCERNED THAT THE DELTA MAR, DUE IN BA ON FEBRUARY 20, WILL BE UNABLE TO OFFLOAD.
- 5. A PRUDENTIAL LINES VESSEL, THE SANTA MAGDALENA, IS ALSO IN ROUTE TO BUENOS AIRES. SHE IS DUE TO ARRIVE THERE ON MARCH 8 WITH A LARGE QUANTITY OF ASBESTOS SHIPPED BY THE CELANESE CORPORATION FROM A MEXICAN PORT. PRUDENTIAL HAS REQUESTED THE DEPARTMENT'S FIRM SUPPORT.
- 6. ACTION REQUESTED: FORWARD OFFICIAL COPY OF RESOLUTION 507 SOONEST TO EB/TCA/MA.
- 7. ACTION REQUESTED: DETERMINE AND REPORT TO THE DE-PARTMENT IF THE FOUR VESSELS NOW IN ROUTE TO BUENOS AIRES, WHICH DEPARTED THE U.S. TOO LATE TO REQUEST PRE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHIPPING CERTIFICATES, WILL ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTY IN OFFLOADING THEIR CARGOES.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT DOES NOT WISH EMBASSY TO MAKE A FORMAL PROTEST AT THIS TIME, BUT EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO CONTACT APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS TO DETERMINE HOW DECREE WILL BE APPLIED TO U.S. VESSELS, BOTH POOL PARTNERS AND NON-POOL PARTNERS. EMBASSY REPORT NEEDED URGENTLY, AS U.S. SHIPPING LINES ALREADY DISCUSSING REMEDIES AVAILABLE TO THEM OTHER THAN COMMERCIAL AND DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION.

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	Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009
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